

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024

## "God's Love in Action"

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
200 South Main Street  
Charles City, IA 50616-2751  
Phone: 641-228-3397

Pastor Russ Leeper:  
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Intern  
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks  
[office@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:office@stjohncharlescity.com)  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
& 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke  
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:  
Melanie Johanningmeier  
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan  
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

**Website: We have a new website in the works!!**  
**Please watch for more information to come!!**



Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by emailing Toni at  
[office@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:office@stjohncharlescity.com)

Worship service broadcasted on  
KCHA FM 95.9 at  
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

St. John Christian Preschool  
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke  
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



## Pastor Russ Leeper

### “The Parish Petunia”

In this season of blooming flowers, I’m reminded of a wise, retired pastor from a former congregation who taught me that church members are like flowers.

He said, “Like flowers, church members come in many different varieties, each with their own special needs. Some members are like roses. You have to be careful around them in order to avoid pain. Other church members are like azaleas. They bloom beautifully, but only if conditions are just the way they like it. Some parishioners,” he said, “are like irises, and have the need to constantly be in the light. Violets, on the other hand, have so much to offer the church, but shyly shrink away to the shadows. And still other church members are like morning-glories. They bloom at the beginning of the day, but fade by noon.”

“There are many different kinds of flowers in the church,” he told me, “and they’re all beautiful and helpful in their own way, but the members you’ll appreciate the most are the petunias. Everybody overlooks petunias, but they just keep blooming, anyway. Petunias don’t require a lot of care and nurturing. They don’t demand attention, nor are they bothered by it. Petunias contribute their efforts without expecting a blue ribbon. They aren’t picky about conditions being just the way they want them, nor do they cause trouble by trying to take over another flower’s area. Petunias just keep quietly blooming and doing the best they can where they are.”

“So, my friend,” the pastor said to me, “when you’ve had a hard day trying to work with and take care of all of those different flowers in your church garden, don’t forget to thank God for the petunias!”

I do give thanks to God for all of you, dear flowers, and I am blessed to be at a congregation with so many petunias!

Peace,

Pastor Russ

# Of Note...

## Church Policy Change:

St. John Finance Board has put into place a new spending policy. There is a new form in the mailbox outside of the Parish Hall that will need to be filled out and preapproved before any purchase over \$100 is made or reimbursed on behalf of the church. Please see Business Manager if you have any questions about the form.

## We're Hiring!

St. John Lutheran Church in Charles City, Iowa is seeking a **Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator**.

This person is responsible for facilitating K-12 faith formation in collaboration with the Board of Parish Education, the Youth & Family Ministry Board, and other volunteers. This position is full time with a competitive benefits package. To view the full job description and qualifications, visit our website at [stjohncharlescity.org](http://stjohncharlescity.org). **To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Pastor Russ Leeper at [rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com).**

## *SUNDAY BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER DEADLINES*

<b>Board Meetings:</b>		
Parish Ed	8/4	10:15 AM
Youth & Family	8/4	10:15 AM
Deacons	8/11	10:15 AM
Finance	8/13	5:00 PM
Council	8/13	6:00 PM
Caring Ministry	8/15	4:30 PM
Stewardship	8/20	5:00 PM
B & G	8/20	6:00 PM
Youth & Family	8/25	10:15 AM
Sept. Meeting		

Requests for adding information to the Sunday Bulletin need to be in the Secretary's Office no later than Wednesday at 9am each week.

Announcements and information for The Good Newsletter need to be submitted to the Secretary's Office by 11:30am on the following dates.

NL for:	Submit by:
September	August 21 <sup>st</sup>
October	September 18 <sup>th</sup>
November	October 16 <sup>th</sup>
December	November 18 <sup>th</sup>
January	December 16 <sup>th</sup>

## **St. John Helping Hands...**

If someone needs help with in-town transportation, light household chores, changing a lightbulb, etc. call St. John at 641-228-3397 & help will be arranged for you!



## **Please help support... St. John Christian Preschool**

Purchase Kwik Star gift cards and the preschool receives 5% of the face value!!

Please contact Whittney or Toni if you are interested.

## **Wanted!! Christian Caregivers**

**Sign up for training that starts in September. You will be richly rewarded.**

**Contact Linda Johnson or Kay Tjaden**

### **BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS**

Just a reminder that St. John offers scholarships for all our youth members attending a Christian camp. Scholarships are offered in the amounts of \$25 for a one-day camp, \$50 for camps lasting 2-3 days, and \$150 for camps lasting 4-7 days. Just bring in a copy of your registration to the Business Office for a reimbursement.

Our kitchen is where I see "God's love in action" all the time. Please consider joining us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My telephone number is 641 228-6927 and my email address is [ctrygma@gmail.com](mailto:ctrygma@gmail.com).

Kathy Crooks

***As precautionary steps for safety and security, we would like to ask all attendees and visitors of St John, to make sure you are locking your vehicles anytime you are inside the church or away from your vehicle.***

### **After Worship Social Time**

**has been an enjoyable way to reconnect with each other!**

Coffee & a treat are now served outside unless the weather does not permit...we will then move into the Parish Hall, each Sunday!

### Song Requests:

Have a request for a song or Hymn...or would like to provide something special for service?  
Write it on the back of your "Attendance" slip or contact Melanie Johannngmeier.

Good News, St. John Family!

Beth Hurt is officially our intern at St. John. As you know, Beth began with us planning to become a Deacon of the church. Then the Lord moved her heart to become an ordained pastor instead. Her internship is 18 months long so she will be with us until the end of 2025.

Beth is contracted for 20-25 hours per week here at St. John. She is also a full-time student, AND she is a wife and mother, AND lives 70 miles away. As an intern, she will be experiencing various aspects of the church, some she will be successful with and others will become a good learning experience. We need to all be positive and patient and prayerful.

St. John is required to form an internship committee to help Beth on this walk. It is the committee's job to provide positive feedback and suggestions to support her growth. This committee consists of Cherie Schafer (as Council representative), Jodi Reetz, Lydia Johnson, Josh Marth, Jim Moon, and Scott Hansen. Please feel free to seek us out and share your thoughts with us as we work with Beth.

## Let's Grow Faith Together!

**Registration for Sunday School is open!** The form is available online and can be accessed by scanning the QR code or at <https://forms.gle/2Q6myhiJdGmNjUv36> Paper copies of the form are still available in the Narthex or in the church office. We are also looking for Sunday School teachers! Check out our display in the Narthex and sign up to teach a month (or two) of Sunday School! If you have any questions, please contact a Parish Ed board member.



**Coats for Kids will be coming October 12<sup>th</sup>**

As you ready your children for the coming cold winter, please consider donating new or gently used coats, snow pants, boots, mittens, or hats. There are many children in Charles City who will love getting a "new" coat for winter!









## Bell Restoration and Stain Glass repair

Wow! St. John, what a great Kick Start! We have \$2177 from the first 3 weeks of July. That went over the original \$2000 goal. Buildings and Grounds have indicated that they have a plan, beginning with moving that bell out of storage and getting a start on the restoration. I

will try to update you more next week on that. Many thanks to our generous donors and to Building and Grounds for their hard work.

The second phase of our 100-year anniversary project is to repair the stain glass window on the Gilbert St. side of the church. Basically, it needs repair around the framing. We do not have an estimate yet, but very likely all of the next \$3000 goal that we set will be needed. It is not a budgeted item. I think that after 100 years in this church building it makes sense that we should take care of the brick and mortar as well as our congregational needs. 100 years ago, Rev. Caselmann left his estate to this congregation to build this church, because of his love for it. Now it is up to us to carry on and maintain it for the future.

Tables will be set up in the Narthex the first two weeks of August for donations or purchases of items made from choir robes. *The Anniversary Committee*



**It is that time of year again!!!**

Jamie is working on the floors throughout the church. If you see any signage or bars across stairwells or in doorways...please do not pass through that area.



If you need assistance to get to a specific location, ask Toni for help.

### Tentative Schedule for Floors:

**What will be closed and when?**

**July 29<sup>th</sup> thru August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Parish Hall Floors...

**Closed:** Parish Hall, Fireside Room & Kitchen

**August 5<sup>th</sup> thru August 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Main Hallway...

**Closed:** All Offices, Chapel, Parish Hall, Fireside Room & Kitchen

**(August 7<sup>th</sup>: Do Day Quilters are able to use the lift, and get down the stairs)**



**Charles City Community Blood Drive**

Messiah Lutheran Church  
705 3rd Ave. | Charles City

**Tuesday, August 13**

12:30 PM - 5:30 PM



Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: [lifeserve.info/schedule](http://lifeserve.info/schedule)



***God's Work. Our Hands.*** is currently working on a project for our Armed Forces Members. We need your assistance with current addresses for them...if you are able to help with this, please give the information to Susan Leeper, Jodi Reetz, or Toni Hicks.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

If you have ideas for projects, talk to Jodi Reetz, Susan Leeper, or leave a message with Toni in the office.



**God's work. Our hands.**



**Coming up on Sunday September 8!**

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is coming up on Sunday, September 8. Sign-ups and more details will be coming in August. If you have an idea for a project, please talk to Jodi Reetz, Susan Leeper, or leave a message with Toni in the office. If you're interested in ordering a t-shirt (or a cap or a sweatshirt!), you can directly order from [www.oldlutheran.com](http://www.oldlutheran.com)



**OLD LUTHERAN**



God's work. Our hands.

If you'd like a t-shirt (or cap! or sweatshirt!) for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, they can be ordered through [oldlutheran.com](http://oldlutheran.com).



September 8, 2024



# People's Page...

With sympathy, we recognize the passing of:

Wallace Schilling

&

Beverly Sears

## Memorials were given in memory of...

Elaine Davidson: Noreen Shirk

Bruce de Buhr: Kay Tjaden, Kip & Judy Hauser, Louise Ott, Gene & Becky Ott, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Diane Melrose, Karen Streich, Ellen Doll-Brewer

Eunice Tommingo: Judy Thornton, Walter & Luann Armstrong, Kip & Judy Hauser, Wanda Sprout, Dorothy Darnell, Kent & Lorie Hoeft

Gene Milhan: Dorothy & Tom Blaney, J Barrett



Welcome  
Peggy  
Andrews!



## August birthdays 80 & older!

William Hollar	8/18/1940
Delbert Ward	8/18/1939
Lenis Buseman	8/21/1942
Diane Cross	8/21/1940
Harlan Reints	8/27/1937
Rosalie Pieper	8/28/1941
Arlene Hollar	8/29/1940
Marian Hoeft	8/29/1930
Helen Hagen	8/31/1940
Diann Jacobson	8/31/1938

## Acolytes for August 2024

### Sunday...

- 4 Rylie Keyes  
Owen Prichard
- 11 Owen Prichard
- 18 Devony O'Brien  
Graham Hansen
- 25 Hailey Rule

## *August anniversaries of our members who have been married 50 or more years!*

Lynn & Jane Thronson	8/04/1973
Bruce & Carol Hovden	8/17/1974
John & Geneva Rima	8/23/1969
Roger & Shirley Regel	8/31/1963

# St. John Christian Preschool...



We are off to explore another year, here at St. John Christian Preschool and we couldn't be more excited!

August is a busy month at the preschool. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding informational parent meetings for each age group. These meetings are great opportunities for question-and-answer sessions and for our families to get to know the other families that will be in their child's class.

August 20<sup>th</sup> is our "Get Acquainted" open house date. This evening is planned to allow our little ones to explore our center in the comforting presence of their families. They also get to drop off their school supplies, meet the teachers and take their school pictures. It's a busy evening, but makes for a smooth start to our school year.

Our first day of school is August 26<sup>th</sup> and we are excited to be welcoming back some familiar faces and also some new faces to our center. We currently have spots available in both of our programs. If you know of someone still in need of a preschool for their little one (who is or will be turning 3 on or before September 15<sup>th</sup>), please give us a call at 228-7274 and we will do our best to help out!

In HIS Name,

Whittney Franke

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 28 9:00am Stephen Leader Commissioning 9:00am Worship 9:00am Worship 10:00am AWST	29 Parish Hall Floors (PH Closed); (PH, FS Room & Kitchen)	30 Parish Hall Floors (PH Closed); (PH, FS Room & Kitchen)	31 Parish Hall Floors (PH Closed); (PH, FS Room & Kitchen)	Aug 1 Parish Hall Floors (PH Closed); (PH, FS Room & Kitchen)	2	3
4 9:00am Worship/Comm 10:00am The Bell (fundraiser tables) 10:00am AWST 10:15am Parish Ed with Youth & Family (then each separately)	5 Main Hallway (Closed); All Offices, Chapel, PH, FS Room & Kitchen...NO 3rd floor access 9:00am Do Day Quilters	6 Main Hallway (Closed); All Offices, Chapel, PH, FS Room & Kitchen...NO 3rd floor access 9:00am Do Day Quilters	7 Main Hallway (Closed); All Offices, Chapel, PH, FS Room & Kitchen...NO 3rd floor access 9:00am Do Day Quilters	8	9	10
11 9:00am Worship 10:00am The Bell (fundraiser tables) 10:00am AWST 10:15am Deacons	12 Parent Meeting (Whitney); PH	13 5:00pm Finance 6:00pm Council	14 6:00pm Paint & Pray; PH	15 8:00am Foster Grandparents; PH 12:00pm Toni Appt (out at noon) 5:30pm Wine & Word (Women's Bible Study); Prologue Books & Wine in the Secret Garden	16	17
18 9:00am Worship/Comm 10:00am AWST	19 8:00am "Get Acquainted" Preschool Open House 5:00pm Stewardship 6:00pm Building & Grounds	20 8:00am "Get Acquainted" Preschool Open House 5:00pm Stewardship 6:00pm Building & Grounds	21 9:00am Do Day Quilters 11:30am Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24
25 9:00am Worship 10:00am AWST 10:15am Anniversary Committee Meeting	26 8:00am First day of Preschool	27	28	29	30	31

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Landon Schultz's birthday Donald and Sharon Teskotte's 40th anniversary Ryan and Shannon Venz's 12th anniversary Parent's Day	29 Glenn Jacobson's birthday Michael and Darci Tracey's 24th anniversary	30 Ana Blickenderfer's birthday Michael Quade's birthday Joshua and Lydia Johnson's 13th anniversary Wayne and Gina McClintock's 41st anniversary Gay and Julie DeBower's 47th anniversary Jake and Lori Gassman's 20th anniversary	31 Emma Velez's birthday Kayden McDonald's birthday	1 Khloe Kubik's birthday Chadwick Kakaac's birthday	2 Elijah Lumley's birthday Kent and Lorie Hoeft's 27th anniversary	3
4 Lynn and Jane Thronson's 51st anniversary	5 Alesia Garden's birthday Scott and Jeanne Hansen's 24th anniversary	6 Laila Northrop's birthday	7 Linda Klemesrud's birthday Vicki Hoffman's birthday Kurtis and Katherine Hoeft's 42nd anniversary	8 Barbara Fuis' birthday Ann Prichard's birthday Ali Blickenderfer's birthday Dennis and Gloria Carr's 37th anniversary	9	10 Gloria Francis' birthday
11 Kaie Hammond's birthday Bruce and Janet Delap's 40th anniversary	12 Katie LaBarge's birthday Mary Mooberry's birthday	13 Janet Petefish's birthday Laura Walker's birthday Stanley and Karmen Meihmen's 40th anniversary	14 Karen Hagarty's birthday Terry and Becky Meyer's 31st anniversary	15 Damon and Karleen Sickman's 10th anniversary	16 Kathleen Michael's birthday Tim LaBarge's birthday Greg and Kendra Buerger's 30th anniversary	17 Katherine Prichard's birthday Bruce and Carol Hovden's 50th anniversary
18 Delbert Ward's birthday William Hollar's birthday Devon and Sarah Murray's 12th anniversary	19 Kyle LaBarge's birthday Mary Mooberry's birthday	20 Olivia Litterer's birthday Athena Schneider's birthday Joshua and Amanda Keyes' 19th anniversary Bruce and Viva Boerschief's 47th anniversary	21 Lenis Buseman's birthday Christopher Garder's birthday Diane Cross' birthday Marcus and Joey Faldiet's 42nd anniversary	22	23 Jennifer Phan Van Ausdall's birthday Karol Carpenter's birthday John and Genevra Rima's 55th anniversary	24
25 Kaleb Davis' birthday Byron Falmisch's birthday Byran and Brenda Stone's 34th anniversary	26 Cooper Vance's birthday	27 Erin Gassman's birthday Harlan Remit's birthday Shirley Regel's birthday David Lindaman's birthday	28 Rosalie Preper's birthday Quincy Johnson's birthday Stephanie Hanson's birthday Ripp Nordmeyer's birthday Julie DeBower's birthday	29 Ariene Hollar's birthday Erian Marten's birthday Marian Hoeft's birthday Lukas Vance's birthday Jennifer Lessin's birthday	30 Luke Jacobs' birthday John Marth's birthday Dennis and Diane Niezwaag's 49th anniversary	31 James Krieger's birthday Diann Jacobson's birthday Jenette Kakaac's birthday Helen Hagen's birthday Roger and Shirley Regel's 61st anniversary
1 Sondra Coen's birthday	2 Samantha Heyer's birthday Labor Day	3 Hallie Kubik's birthday Gary and Wendy Vance's 42nd anniversary	4 Yolanda Van Ausdall's birthday Bill and Sharon Blescoe's 59th anniversary Monte and Kathleen Waldorf's 53rd anniversary	5 Ron Streich's birthday Sandra Dugan's birthday Ethan and Keegan Voelker's 3rd anniversary	6 Seth Nordmeyer's birthday Emersyn Unga's birthday Robert Tommingo's birthday James and Jacqueline Moon's 54th anniversary	7 Gloria Carr's birthday Kylie Parsons' birthday Lauren Connell's birthday